

The Latter-Day Saints'

MILLENNIAL STAR.

HE THAT HATH AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAITH
UNTO THE CHURCHES.—Rev. II. 7.

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ADDRESS BY ELDER FRANKLIN D. RICHARDS,

DELIVERED AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE, GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, OCTOBER 6, 1853.

(From the "Deseret News," Oct. 29.)

Brethren and Sisters—It seems to have fallen to my lot this afternoon to speak to you. Whether I may speak lengthily, or occupy but a short time, will be as I am led and dictated by the Holy Spirit.

I rejoice in the opportunity, for many reasons. The first and greatest is, it is a blessing for a man who is called of God to teach the people, to exercise himself in his office and calling, and try to magnify it, for he is thereby made a blessing to the people, and is himself edified, often, yea, I may say generally, quite as much as they.

I rejoice this afternoon in the privilege of meeting so many of my brethren who have just arrived from the old country. I behold faces in the congregation with whom I have within a few years past been wont to assemble, in England, in Scotland, in Wales, and in other places; there we used to rejoice together. The Spirit and power of God rested upon us while we contemplated the things of God, that are calculated to prepare us for the life which is to come.

I feel to congratulate you, my brethren who have newly come in, and who constitute so goodly a number of my hearers this afternoon, upon your safe arrival in these beautiful valleys; for you have now accomplished one of the greatest undertakings of your lives. Once, had you been told that you would forsake fa-

ther, mother, brethren, sisters, kindred, and friends, and that you would do it under the stigmatised appellation of "Mormon," to come so great a distance, to traverse one-third of the circumference of the globe, it would have been as incredible to you as to any of us. While you were near the close of this great task, doubtless some felt that had it been one hundred miles farther, they scarcely could have endured to the end of the journey; yet, to some of us, this wonderful, great undertaking is but a small thing; we have done it several times, and expect to do it many times more. I congratulate you, however, on your having accomplished the task, and feel, as your brother in the Lord, to welcome you here in the midst of God's people, and to pray with sincerity that the spirit of Zion may rest upon you.

You have come to this place with feelings and views as varied as the degree of faith in, and knowledge you have of, the Gospel, and the measure of spirit in which you walk. There are some who, in their own estimation, are well qualified and fully prepared to judge of the propriety and impropriety of everything that exists here; and such, while they may find some few things answer pretty well, will find many things which, in their opinion, are not right, and really need reformation.

Brethren, you who have just arrived in the Valley, I wish to direct my words to

you this afternoon, to sound a word in your ears that may not be lost upon you, and it is worth your while to hearken to it. You may dwell in this society, and never know what manner of spirit you are of, nor the power of God that dwells in the Priesthood in your midst; and, on the other hand, you may come here in a right frame of mind, and hearken to the Spirit of God through the man whom He has appointed to watch over us, and know that the words of all God's servants are the words of life to you; and their faces will shine with wisdom in your eyes. If you possess this frame of mind, you will be prepared to drink in intelligence from day to day, from their counsel and examples, that will lead you on in the bright and shining way that was discoursed upon this morning.

In the first place, I will offer a word to all, whether they are mechanics or common labourers. No matter what calling you may follow in life, you have need, at this juncture of your existence, to observe and treasure up one thing carefully and faithfully in your minds, namely, if you live a proper life before the Lord, you know that you have the fellowship of His Spirit, so that you know your prayers are heard and answered, because you receive the things you ask for. If you live so as to always have the witness of the good Spirit, you will be saved to-day and every day, and thus it will constantly be well with you. But if you are heedless of *this day*, and calculate on to-morrow, you have no assurance that you will realize your hopes to-morrow. The only certain stepping stone to the great good you may have to-morrow in the midst of this people is, that you are faithful to your covenants with God, and secure thereby the fellowship of the Spirit, and walk in the counsels of it to-day; if you do this, you will have the good that is for you to-morrow.

If you have come into this place nearly penniless, and, in many respects, comparatively destitute, and no one to take you by the hand, your friends are not here, or if they are, and do not hail you as you think they ought, be of good cheer, and let not your heart be sad, knowing you are doing right, and have gathered according to the word of the Lord.

If you look about you, and see the Saints who have been here some years, and the choice locations taken up by them,

and you are still at the foot of the hill apparently, do not fret your souls; remember that those brethren made the roads to this place, killed the snakes, or gently turned them out of their path, made the bridges, opened the canyons, made the fences, ploughed the ground, and worked in the wet and cold, in the midst of hunger and privation, to the best of their ability, more than any portion of this people have. Have they not worked to obtain what they have now got? If you look at it with a single eye, it is marvellous to see the kingdom of God at this day. After being here only six years; after being driven from Nauvoo, and suffering the toils of a wilderness life among savages and wolves, to see it at the present time is indeed comforting and cheering; the aspect is promising beyond all we could have anticipated, or almost what could have been wished. Does it not make your souls rejoice in the Lord, that He has established His people, and to realize that you are blessed above measure in having a name and a place in this city or territory? You are better off this afternoon in this place, in rags, and begging your bread, than in England, Scotland, or Wales, earning one hundred pounds per annum. You would there be dwelling among the cloudy mists of Babylon, where you dare not say your souls were your own. You could make but little advancement in your holy religion there; but here you can receive words of life from those whom God has appointed to lead His people into the way of salvation. Be careful now, that the good Spirit which has accompanied you in the old world, and dwelt with you in the ship across the sea, and has sustained you and your teams while crossing the plains—be careful that you retain it, and make it your counsellor here.

I know how natural it is for the Saints who come from abroad to be very diligent in inspecting God's people, to see if they are as righteous as they ought to be; but they forget they have a duty to perform to themselves. As one of old said, "the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear with hearing," but they forget to look at themselves; the spirit of murmuring and complaining takes possession of them, and you may see them wandering about in sorrow, affliction, and grief; and what is worse than all, *they have brought it upon themselves*, because they have not retained

the fellowship of the Holy Spirit through faithfulness of conduct, and away they go to California. I felt to speak these things to you, that you might be admonished at the present time to faithfulness, and that you might rejoice in the assembly of God's people, that you have been brought over the mountains to this place in safety. I feel to magnify the name of the Lord to see so many of you, and pray that those who are still journeying on the plains may be safely brought in.

In coming here, you cannot, as individuals, know all things that are before you. You are now dwelling in a society that differs from any you ever dwelt in. The circumstances of life are all different, and the business arrangements different, to those you have been used to in the old country. It is necessary that you look about you for a season, find out whom you are among, and know the condition and nature of the elements and state of the society, that you may drop into business through the fellowship of your brethren and sisters, and take hold with them in the different branches of business that are carried on here for the comforts of life. You Elders, who have been in that country, preaching and building up Branches of the Church there; you that have taken up your cross, and gone from your homes, and warned the inhabitants of the earth where you have laboured, the Lord went with you, when you went in the name of Jesus; His Spirit was upon you, and you were the means of building up Churches, and of doing much good in various ways; that same Spirit will be with you when you go to labour in the canyons, or do anything else, if you will nourish it, and not cast it from you. Peradventure in the canyons you may need its premonitions most when your life or limb may be in jeopardy. This, my brethren, is the rock upon which many Saints split—they leave the way of truth, they step aside from the rugged path of duty which they have been wont to walk in, and, feeling a degree of ease and safety, as they suppose, on arriving here, they forget their prayers, and that they have need to continue to increase their fellowship with the Holy Spirit; they leave off their duties, and, ere they are aware of it, they are left to themselves.

It is said that the females are the ones by whom the nations are ruled. It is certain that the females have necessarily

great influence upon the whole community, and especially upon the rising generation. Allow me a word with the sisters. In your associations and visitings with those about you, when you find a sister or brother that can speak evil of dignities with impunity, and can find fault with what is being done by the Church, and cannot do any good themselves, (for such folks cannot do anything themselves but bark and snarl like the dog in the manger,) when you get into the society of such people, you will take notes, if you do as I do, and seek the company of those who will speak well of the brethren and sisters, and then you may expect they will speak well of you. When you associate with those who speak well of the truth, their counsels will edify you, and their words will be seasoned with grace to your edification and instruction, and the clouds of adversity that rest down upon you will vanish away.

You will find Saints living about you, that have the good Spirit, and can give you the word of comfort, and take you by the hand and pour the oil of consolation into your heart, and do you good in the name of the Lord. If you seek that kind of society, you will tend upwards towards the realms of light, in duty and intelligence. By taking this course, you will be cultivating the same good Spirit in your own hearts, that you see in the hearts, examples, and general conduct of your brethren and sisters around you, and which is most conspicuous in those who are called to lead and direct in the Priesthood. On the other hand, if you come in here with the intention to be right down sharp, careful to watch and to criticise your brethren very closely, you will find all the evil you look for, and see imperfections which the cloak of charity and good will would have covered, had you possessed it yourself. You never were among a people where men talk as they mean, and mean what they say, so near as in this place. If you feel to take advantage of your brother or your sister, you may, but it will not be good for your soul; it will be money badly earned. But if you come here with a frank and honest heart, and prepared to speak and act without hypocrisy, and just as you feel, you will find yourselves among a community of brethren and sisters that are ready to aid, comfort, and bless you. If you look with your eyes, as I did with mine when I came home from England, you will

find your brethren and sisters to be such kind of beings, whose good works you will wish to emulate.

Take the wisest course to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of the truth; and the only way is by attending diligently to your prayers, and walking in the light of God's Spirit. You will find that condescension in the hearts of your brethren, that love and charity abounding in their bosoms, that if you are in adversity and need, they will extend a helping hand, and comfort you, and do you good, and will not charge you one hundred per cent. interest either, I have to say that if you have come to these valleys determined, as for you and yours, to serve the Lord, you will find it the easiest thing in the world to fellowship with those whose hearts run together like two drops of water, and you will be blessed, as also will those with whom you associate. You have arrived at a juncture of your life where two ways branch out; if you wish to travel downward, the great depot of that route is California; if upward, the great depot on that road is this city, these men that surround me in this stand. You do not know what you may be called upon to do. I do not know what I may be called upon to do before this Conference comes to a close, in addition to what is already laid upon me here at home. It is necessary to be always ready; and if you live as you ought, you will always be ready, and nothing will come wrong to you; and if you always live that way, you may always be as happy as you wish to be.

The work we are called unto in these last days, calls upon us not to narrow our minds down to the building of a piece of fence, to the enclosing of a piece of land, or to the putting up of a house alone, but it is our duty while seeking to make an inheritance here, to reach out our prayers in faith and supplication for the general good, and with becoming liberality feel after those who are to enjoy the same blessings we enjoy. We have our duties to ourselves and families to perform, and our daily and hourly duties to our God; but there is a duty we owe, in common with all God's people, to those who are not yet gathered from the house of bondage. How many of the Israel of God are there sitting in darkness, in distant nations, that have not the light proclaimed to them? Have we come home here to sit down in ease, and let them go down to the grave in ignorance? If we have, we

mistake the matter, and in the end will find we shall come short of that glory and reward we anticipate. You have come here to obtain inheritances for yourselves and families, and for your generations for ever, in righteousness, as God shall give you power to do. You have, in connection with this, to build up the kingdom of God, to pay tithing, and be ready to fill every office and duty that is put upon you, making the kingdom of God the first and foremost in your affections and attention, and yourselves and families a secondary consideration; and this Gospel has to be borne off among the nations of the earth.

How good it is for us to hear, by the monthly mails, how many there are continually witnessing afar off to the forgiveness of sins through the Gospel. We ought to remember them, and be prepared for whatever may be expected at our hands in those far off regions. Let us not settle down and become sordid in our affections to anything earthly. It is our duty to seek first the kingdom of God, and the promises that other things shall be added unto us.

The Lord has manifested His readiness, and determination of purpose, to pour out knowledge and intelligence upon His people, as fast as they are prepared to receive it. Since I left you the last time in the old country, the revelations of the Lord have been sent forth, which had never before been made public, and we have all been led along by degrees in the knowledge of life and salvation. Yet a great amount of advancement has yet to be made while we are in the flesh, greater duties are rolling upon us as fast as we can perform those we are already engaged in. We look around us here upon the house of Israel, the Lamanites, and while our hearts are opened towards them for good, they are not backward to administer death to our brethren. Is this always going to be so? No. The Lord God will work upon them in His own way, until they become one with us in building up the kingdom of God.

The Priesthood in the last days has to be manifested in sufficient power to bear off the kingdom of God triumphant, that all Israel may be gathered and saved. If all Israel will not be sanctified by the law which their Moses first offers them, they will peradventure receive a law of ordinances administered to them, not according to the power of an endless life. Man will

be saved in the last days as in former days, according to their faith and willingness to receive the word of God, and walk in it.

We may speak in terms of wonder and admiration of what has been done, and yet where shall these things grow to? They must grow until they spread over all the face of the earth, and control the powers that exist upon it. There must be other revelations fulfilled in our return to Jackson county, and building up the New Jerusalem there; the Lord prepare us for that day, that we may be able to stand the exhibition of glory that will there be made manifest. Before that comes to pass, something must be done here, there is a temple to be built in this city. You brethren, who received your blessings and endowments in the temple that was built in Nauvoo, have been made witnesses of the wisdom and power that have gone forth to the nations of the earth from that place, and of the power that was realized in the quorums of the Priesthood; no tide of oppression could be raised powerful enough to bear down the authorities of God's kingdom; we see the wicked who came to rule us turned back to their own place, and the Priesthood appears greater than the powers of earth. The powers of the Priesthood must be made manifest before the eyes of all the world, and become transcendentally above every other influence. You have sure grounds for confidence, for every step and every turn this Church makes, is calculated to increase confidence; and if we live so as to have our eyes washed

with the eye water of the Gospel, we can ourselves realize the rapid growth of Christ's kingdom, and the growth of grace in ourselves and in others necessary to lead us on to perfection. You have come here to cultivate perfection in yourselves in the name of the Lord; and if you do that, and try to be useful, and willing to do anything here or anywhere else you are instructed to do, you will be made fit for the performance of any essential good in the kingdom of God.

Well then, brethren and sisters, while all is auspicious around us, and everything calculated to encourage us to do good, let us be up and doing, and try to keep the commandments of God with all our hearts, and we shall find it easier and easier to do it. Let us be prepared always for every duty that is laid upon us, and the grace of God will be sufficient for us under every circumstance.

When I was called to preside in England, I felt as though I never could magnify that calling, it appeared too great for me. But if we feel right, we shall feel like the Prophet of old, the Spirit of the Lord will be sufficient for us in the performance of every duty. I pray that the spirit of Zion may be given to you who have newly come in, that you may go on your way rejoicing, and be able to do the will of God here and abroad. May the blessings of God be and abide upon you by day and by night, and increase upon the earth, in blessings and riches forever, is the prayer of your brother Franklin.

OUR SISTERS AND THEIR INFLUENCE;

EXEMPLIFIED IN A CONVERSATION BETWEEN MARY ANN WILLIAMS AND ELIZA G—,
OF SHREWSBURY.

PART FIRST.

Eliza. Good evening, Mary Ann.

Mary Ann. Good evening, Eliza. I see we have met again, and truly it makes my heart rejoice.

E. And why should your heart rejoice, Mary Ann?

M. A. For two reasons—one, because I have met my old friend, once more; but more than this, to see that the Lord has answered my prayer.

E. The Lord answered your prayer, Mary Ann! Well, I am happy to hear of it,

for I always feel, as the Scriptures teach me, to rejoice with those who do rejoice, as well as mourn with those who mourn. But have you any objections to tell me in what particular the Lord has answered your prayer?

M. A. Not in the least, Eliza; indeed, that was my intention when I addressed you, and I will tell you, if you will promise to banish all prejudice from your mind, and give ear unto what I say.

E. I will make that promise.

M. A. Many a time I have made it a matter of prayer to my heavenly Father,

that He would give me the opportunity to see you alone, and now I think it presents itself before me.

E. Well, Mary Ann, if I may be allowed to judge, I think we are alone now, at least there is no one near who will interfere with us. But pray what are your reasons for wishing to see me *alone*?

M. A. Why I wish to have a little private conversation with you.

E. I feel desirous to know upon what subject. I trust it is nothing but what will be interesting.

M. A. Well, the subject is *not* of a trifling nature, Eliza; it is concerning the principles of the Everlasting Gospel, or the plan of salvation revealed from the heavens in these last days.

E. I am sorry to say I know but little concerning the things of which you speak. If you can give me any instructions, I will return you my sincere thanks.

M. A. I will, by the assistance of the Spirit of God, endeavour to tell you my mind, hoping yours will be open to conviction, and that you will for a few moments be an attentive listener.

E. Well, Mary Ann, knowing by experience that you have always been my friend, I feel that I can trust you now, and can only say, that anything you may communicate shall have my most serious attention.

M. A. I thank you, Eliza; then I will at once proceed. For some time past, my mind has been led to contemplate upon the things which relate to my eternal peace; I have sought earnestly *for*, and felt determined to *have*, salvation, were it to be obtained. I was diligent for some time. At length I became acquainted with a body of people, calling themselves Latter-day Saints. In their company, I felt deeply interested. I attended their religious meetings, and whilst there my heart was made to rejoice to see and hear the gifts and blessings they received from the heavens, while in fellowship with each other—one would arise, and, by the power of God, speak in new tongues; another, by the same power, would give the interpretation; another would manifest the spirit of prophecy, &c.; while many would arise in boldness, and testify, in the name of Jesus, that the work in which they were engaged was the work of the Lord. All these things I took into consideration,

and was led to exclaim, in the expressive language of the poet—

“I have been there, and still would go,
’Tis like a little heaven below.”

I contemplated some time upon the things I had heard and seen. At length I came to the conclusion that, if I did not embrace that doctrine, I should surely be condemned. Having heard the testimony of those professing to be the servants of the Lord, I felt assured they were such. Accordingly, I called for the Elders of the Church, and was baptized for the remission of my sins, and had hands laid upon me for the Gift of the Holy Ghost. Since then, my mind has been gradually enlightened upon the principles of life and salvation—principles that I never once thought of before. And I now thank the Lord I can realize the truth of that Scripture which saith, “Darkness hath covered the earth, and gross darkness the minds of the people.”

E. Why, Mary Ann, I am quite surprised to think, that you should have such things in your head. The principles you speak about appear so strange that I feel a desire to know more of them, for, by your discourse, I am led to think they are something new.

M. A. No, Eliza, the principles taught and practised by the Latter-day Saints are *not new*, but the same as taught by Jesus and his Apostles, and recorded in the Scriptures, viz.—Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, Repentance, Baptism for the Remission of sins, and the laying on of hands for the Gift of the Holy Ghost. I would advise you to search the Scriptures and see for yourself.

E. You advise me to search the Scriptures, but I very much question if I shall find those things there.

M. A. You need not have one moment’s doubt, for, if it be necessary, I can give you chapter and verse; for instance, in the 28th chapter and 19th verse of St. Matthew’s Gospel, you will find that Jesus gave unto his disciples a commission, saying, “Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” Also, in the 16th Chapter and 15th and 16th verses of St. Mark’s Gospel, you will read, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; and he that believeth not shall be damned.” And, in the 2nd chapter of

the Acts of the Apostles, you will find that Peter was preaching to a great multitude on the day of Pentecost, and many were pricked to the heart, and cried out, "Men and brethren, what shall we do." Peter, who was filled with the Spirit of the Lord, answered and said unto them, "Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Many other passages I could quote, but these, I think, should be sufficient to show to any honest mind the truth of the principles which I have named, also that baptism is an essential principle of the Gospel of Christ, and that none can be saved without it.

E. Your remarks are so straight forward, Mary Ann, and so plain to be seen, that I cannot for one moment doubt your word. But, in the commencement of our conversation, you said something about the plan of salvation revealed from the heavens in these last days. I should be happy to have my mind enlightened upon that subject also.

M. A. What I meant is this—some eighteen hundred years ago, when the Gospel was revealed by Jesus, and proclaimed by his Apostles, it was almost universally rejected; and history and tradition agree to testify that those who were its prominent advocates sealed their testimony with their blood, and found a martyr's grave; their successors and followers were everywhere spoken against, and persecuted from city to city, having no abiding resting place; the nations, counting themselves unworthy of eternal life, "transgressed the law, changed the ordinance, and broke the everlasting covenant;" consequently, the Gospel was taken from the earth, and the inhabitants thereof given up to "strong delusions, that they might believe a lie and be damned," according to the Scripture. Since then they have been wallowing in wickedness and sin, and worshipping gods after the imagination of their own hearts, until it hath pleased the Lord, in His infinite mercy in these last days, in fulfilment of the prediction of John the Revelator, to send an angel from heaven to earth, with the Everlasting Gospel to preach to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. And I can rejoice in having

obtained a knowledge for myself that the angel has come and revealed that same Gospel to the Prophet of the last days, even Joseph Smith, he who was so much despised by the people of this generation, who endured so much persecution and imprisonment for the Gospel's sake, yet notwithstanding was faithful to his calling, and finally sealed his testimony with his blood, as did the Prophets who preceded him.

E. Is it possible that angels administer to men in *our day*, and reveal such glorious principles as these? But if you have a knowledge for yourself that these things are so, I should like to have some testimony from you. Will you give me a little?

M. A. I will, Eliza, in all meekness, and in the name of Jesus, bear my testimony to you, before God, angels, or men. The "Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints," is the *only* Church the Lord acknowledges upon the face of the earth. In it there is a *fulness* of life and salvation, *out of it* there is not. I testify that the same signs follow this people as did the ancient Saints. I know that sins are remitted by baptism, that the Holy Ghost is communicated by the laying on of hands, that the gift of tongues is made manifest by the power of God, as also the interpretation of the same; and many other great and glorious blessings too numerous for me to mention.

E. I return you my sincere thanks for your kindness, Mary Ann. But pray tell me, how did you find out that these blessings did follow the ancient Saints?

M. A. By reading the Scriptures, Eliza, you will find it recorded in the 16th Chapter of Mark. Peruse the good old Book, and see for yourself. Then you will be better able to judge.

E. I will, Mary Ann, with more diligence than ever I have done. And should I find what you have repeated in my ears therein recorded, I will give obedience to the same. I must now bid you adieu, but at some future time I will see you and let you know my mind.

M. A. I am truly happy, Eliza, to find you so willing to obey the Gospel, and I promise you that inasmuch as you do it with an eye single to the glory of God, you shall know for yourself whether the doctrine be of God or man. And I

pray that the Lord may let His Spirit rest | ere long may we meet again. But, for
upon you, that you may see the things of | the present, good evening.
His kingdom, even as they are. And | E. Good evening!

(To be concluded in our next.)

The Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1854.

HOME INTELLIGENCE—Sheffield Conference.—Sheffield, December 30, Elder W. Glover writes. The Priesthood and the Saints, generally, were united and in good spirits. Elder Glover gives us a very interesting account of his meeting with the children forming the Sunday School in the Sheffield Branch. No doubt their recitations, songs, &c., were very pleasing.

We should be much gratified if we could hear of such meetings among the Saints in every one of the seven hundred Branches of the Church in the British Isles. Were-joyce to hear of people being converted to the truth, but it is no less a matter of rejoicing to us to hear of children being brought up in the way they should go, that they may not need converting therefrom. If all fathers among the Saints were Elders sent out to preach to this unbelieving generation, we think they would not be slow to remember their children, and teach them the purity of the Gospel. Cannot the 30,000 British Saints do a *great deal more* than they are now doing to prepare the minds of those of whom is the kingdom of heaven, to become valiant soldiers of that kingdom? Depend upon it, on this earth, there is a struggle yet to come, or rather to be concluded; between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan, in which the rising generation will act a most conspicuous part. And if the children of the Saints are not educated and prepared for that struggle, it will most assuredly come upon them unawares—in an hour they least think it, yea as a thief in the night, and they will inevitably suffer loss. Many of the Saints are forward to talk of the dominion they will yet sway over their countless posterity. They may have that privilege sometime, but many generations will elapse first, if the Saints do not prove to the Lord, by a prompt and proper course of training, that they appreciate the eternal worth of posterity with which they are now entrusted. The Saints will remember that the Scriptures tell us of the one unappreciated and misused talent being taken from its holder, and given to him who had ten talents. Such a rule may work amongst the offspring of the Saints now, if the Lord sees it wisdom, and He very likely will see it wisdom, if the Saints are too negligent, although He is very merciful, long suffering, and slow to anger.

The subject of Sunday Schools should have the attention of Pastors and Presidents in all places where an organization of the Church is found, that the instruction of little children may be wisely conducted under the influence of those who possess richly the spirit of truth, and have authority to teach. We are forward to believe that He who when on earth said—"Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not," feels equal sympathy for them now, and would regard their infant thanks, and songs, and praises as sweetest music to his ears; and that he is as willing to bless now as formerly. And he said—"I and my Father are one."

Shropshire Conference.—Shrewsbury, December 31, Elder J. O. Angus writes. The spirit of mobocracy was still raging, being winked at, aided, and abetted by some who, from their position in society, might be expected to comport themselves in such

a manner as to entitle them to be ranked with the supporters of loyalty, law, and liberty, instead of the actual reverse. The mob repaired to the Saints' meeting room on the evening of Christmas day, being Conference day. However, no Saints were found there to be disturbed, the business having been transacted by Elder Angus taking Father Time by the forelock. The mobbers then went to the lodgings of Elder Angus, and created some little disturbance, though only staying a short time.

It was intended to hold a Festival on the 26th. The Festival was opened, and continued for a short time without molestation. When the intellectual portion of the proceedings commenced, the mob rushed at the door, and forced an entrance, and, after some personal violence had been exhibited to certain of the brethren, the meeting was dismissed. In consequence of the disturbance, one of the mob was arraigned before the magistrates, who dismissed the case, saddling the brethren with the costs, and saying that the mobber had done right.

There is a work for all men to do, Saints or sinners. They should all be diligent, and the business will be more quickly done, for the time is short, and the work will be cut short in righteousness. But a few brief years and every one will go to his own place, to receive a righteous reward for the deeds done in the body, whether they be good or evil. May that day of rewards be hastened, that the righteous may rejoice, and the wicked hang down their ignoble heads in merited shame and contempt.

EMIGRANTS FROM GERMANY AND SCANDINAVIA.—Elder Daniel Carn arrived in Liverpool on the 28th of Dec. last, in company with 33 Saints from the German Mission, and 300 from the Scandinavian Mission, en route for Great Salt Lake Valley. The company embarked on the *Jesse Munn*, Jan. 1st, and sailed on the 3rd for New Orleans, under the presidency of Elder B. C. Larsen.

Elder Carn reports as favourably of the German Mission as could be expected. The work is slowly onward, and the number of the Saints increasing. Out of 128 which have been baptized into the Church, fifty have now emigrated, fifty-seven remain in good standing, and twenty-one have been cut off. Those who remain are very desirous of leaving the country where insurrection and revolution are the theme of the people and the dread of rulers, where all hearts fear the approaching evil day, which apparently must soon overwhelm the nations. May the Lord have compassion upon His elect, and gather them from the ends of the earth.

Elder Carn has been honoured to perform a work in that mission, which few could have anticipated under the circumstances. The wisdom and power of God, and the integrity of His servants, can be best appreciated when we behold them successfully coping with the combined opposition of both rulers and people, and advancing with a firm and unyielding tread upon the enemy's ground. May the blessing of God richly abound towards him and the people while he continues in charge of that important field.

ELDERS SESSIONS AND CURTIS.—Elders P. G. Sessions, and Dorr P. Curtis, are expected to accompany the first ship load of Emigrants, and they will be instructed to serve the emigration at New Orleans, or at other important places not supplied with an Agent. Elder Sessions is advised to return on account of his health, which we pray may be restored to him, that his valuable services may be rendered available to the journeying camps the coming season upon the plains. His mission, though short, and mostly performed in affliction, has been successful and beneficial to many who will remember his services with lasting gratitude.

QUIET FOR THE PLAINS.—By letter from Elder H. S. Eldredge, St. Louis, received

on the 5th inst., we are informed that almost everything that will be required for Emigrants' Outfit for the Plains, will cost more this year than last. Those who fit up their own teams should go prepared to pay whatever they may cost more than the £45 forwarded by them, as it is thought this sum will be insufficient to cover the expense of good teams. An additional £5, at least, should be in hand for every team ordered, to be paid, if necessary, when the teams are delivered at the place where the Saints will be advised to fit up for their land journey.

DEPARTURE.—Elder William Empy sailed on the 7th inst., on board the steamship *Niagara*, hence for Boston, and will repair via New York, to the Western States, and attend to the purchasing of cattle, waggon, &c., for the emigration over the plains. Elder Empy has intrusted to him a very important mission, and we crave for him the faith and prayerful solicitude of all Saints who wish well to God's gathering people; that he may be most successful in promoting the interests of all whom he goes to serve. His ability, with the wisdom and blessing of God attending, will enable him to accomplish great good for the Saints.

DISCOURSE OF ELDER F. D. RICHARDS.—The discourse of Elder F. D. Richards, which appears in our present Number, we take pleasure in recommending to the perusal of our readers, especially those who are about to emigrate, that they may be prepared, upon their arrival in the Valley, to act upon the instructions and wise counsels it contains. If the Saints will bear them in mind, and practise upon them whenever opportunity presents, they will serve greatly to enhance their happiness while in this life, and give them more exalted views of that which is to come. Many things which are, or ought to be associated with our daily life, and are looked upon by many as least worthy of attention, often involve principles of the most vital importance to the salvation of the soul. Those who live best to-day, will be best prepared to welcome to-morrow, and appreciate it as being designed for their advancement in every virtue that tends to perfection.

CORRESPONDENCE.—Our Correspondents need not expect answers to their communications, unless accompanied with their full address. We have neither time nor patience, at this busy season of the year, to search back *Stars*, and letters filed away, for the addresses of those whose inquiries we would otherwise willingly answer.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS,

HELD IN THE TABERNACLE, GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, COMMENCING OCTOBER 6TH, 1853, 10 A.M. PRESIDENT BRIGHAM YOUNG, PRESIDING.

(From the "*Deseret News*," Oct. 15.)

(Continued from page 25.)

Seven o'clock, P.M.
Singing. Prayer by President Joseph Young. Singing.

PRESIDENT JOSEPH YOUNG appreciated the necessity of the Holy Spirit taking the lead of a speaker, to a congregation of the

Saints. Many of this congregation have not a knowledge of the history of this Church from its beginning, although it is very interesting. In June, 1832, I first saw the Book of Mormon, when it arrested my feelings with a conviction that God

was in it. Joseph Smith moved forward in the spirit of his calling, and angels conversed and ministered unto him, and no man could thwart him, for God was with him. I received the testimony, by the Holy Ghost, that the work was true; and when I first saw Joseph, and took him by the hand, *I knew that he was a man of God.* Since Joseph and Hyrum were martyred, Brigham, Heber, and Willard are the men that guide this kingdom, so that not a man nor woman who seeks it will lose the glory, wisdom, purity, and joys of the eternal world. You need have no misgivings, for God is here, angels are round about us, and minister to the Saints, and I bless, and pray for, this people.

ELDER B. L. CLAPP said—The time is at hand that we have got to be Latter-day Saints in very deed, or else the trials that we have to pass through will cause us to kick out. This people have got to amalgamate their feelings more than they have been, and we shall then receive more of the blessings of God, as we see the Scriptures fulfilled.

ELDER A. P. ROCKWOOD remarked, that it is our lot to be the messengers of salvation to all the nations of the earth, to gather out the honest in heart, to prepare for the second coming of the Son of Man, and we should be ready to go any where at a moment's notice, and to fill any mission that may be appointed unto us.

PRESIDENT JOSEPH YOUNG says he has watched the leaders of this people. There are no misgivings in my heart, and if you will keep Brigham's counsel, he will lead you safely into celestial glory. Be pure and virtuous, and we shall take the kingdom and possess it for ever.

"Come let us anew" was sung by the congregation. Benediction by Elder P. P. Pratt.

Oct. 7, 1853, 10 A. M.

Singing by the choir. Prayer by Elder W. W. Phelps. Singing.

PRESIDENT H. C. KIMBALL remarked that he felt grateful that we live to see the day we now enjoy. We are blest above all the inhabitants of the earth. All that we need is to cultivate the earth, and if we *live our religion*, and are subject to the government of God, the elements will be changed for our good. If all the Saints would do as well as they know, the Holy Ghost would rest upon the Elders of Israel in

tenfold power; and it would take but a few years until "the end" should come. It is for me to serve God, and keep His commandments; and if a person will not fulfil his covenants in *this* world, God will *make that person* fulfil his covenant in the *next*. When the Pioneers arrived in this Valley they did not murmur, neither did they murmur when half their horses were stolen by the Indians, near the South Pass. I am glad you have the privilege of an experience, as well as we had. It is my wish to live here, until the Lord will allow us to go back to Jackson county; but you can not go there, unless you become as one man, and do as you are told. I say it boldly, before God and Angels, that I have more love towards brother Brigham and many other good men, than I have for any woman on the earth. I have gone with him without purse or scrip, and gone hungry, barefoot, sick, and destitute of the comforts of life, to preach the Gospel of Salvation to the nations of the earth. Gentlemen, you will have to pass through the same, or you cannot sit down and appreciate what we and the ancient Saints have passed through.

Every one of you have got to help the Perpetual Emigrating Funds with your substance, which is one of the greatest blessings for the poor, that the Lord ever instituted.

ELDER GEORGE A. SMITH said, he had listened with pleasure to the remarks of President Kimball, which were true. A great portion of the inhabitants of these valleys can bear testimony to the instructions given to fort themselves secure. The people generally do not realize the importance of listening to the counsels of His servant Brigham. Great numbers have been counselled to go to Iron county to make a strong settlement there; many started, but when they got to Utah, they scattered, built fine houses, and made large farms. I told them that order of things would not answer; they did not obey the counsels of the President, when a man by the name of Walker felt he would see if the people would obey him, and by his course of operations, in one week got over 300 houses removed; he actually had more influence than the Presidency had. I do know that if the counsel of President Young had been observed, not one man would have lost his life by an Indian, and it would have saved many thousands of dollars of expense. The Indian war is the result of

the people's thinking they knew more than President Young; and even now, if the people will do as they are told, there need not be any more blood shed by the Indians. If the women and children are not more careful than they have been, some of the women will be carried off prisoners, and some of your children may be killed.

Choir sung the Hallelujah Chorus. Benediction by Elder E. Snow.

Oct. 7, 2 P. M.

Singing by the choir. Prayer by Elder Woodruff. Singing.

President Young rose to present a few missionaries, for the approval of the Conference, viz:

Elders George A. Smith, Erastus Snow, and Franklin D. Richards, to gather up fifty families to strengthen the settlements in Iron County; also fifty families to increase the settlement at Fillmore.

Elders Wilford Woodruff and Ezra T. Benson, to gather up fifty families to strengthen the settlements in Tooele.

Brothers Lyman Stevens and Reuben W. Allred, to gather up fifty families for each of the settlements in San Pete.

Elder Lorenzo Snow, to select fifty families to go to Box Elder.

Elder Joseph L. Heywood, to take fifty families to Nephi, in Juab County.

All of which were unanimously sustained by the voice of the Conference.

Elder Orson Hyde was appointed to raise a company, to make a permanent settlement at Green river, which was also sanctioned by the Conference.

President Young then delivered an address from 6th chap. 3rd verse 1st Corinthians, "Know ye not that we shall judge angels?"

Choir sung a hymn. Benediction by President Kimball.

Adjourned until to-morrow at 10 A. M.

Oct. 8, 10 A. M.

Conference opened with singing. Prayer by Elder B. L. Clapp. Singing.

President H. C. KIMBALL remarked— I am now about to present unto you the authorities of the Church, to see whether you will sustain them in their offices or not; and we do not wish you to vote unless you feel to sustain them. Here is President Brigham Young; I shall present him before you as our President, Seer, and Revelator, who stands at the head of this

dispensation, and to whom it is our duty to give heed; to abide his counsel, in all things, as the voice of God unto us; and not to play with his words and feelings as a cat would with a mouse. We have all of us been accustomed to have our own way, whether that was right or wrong; but now it is for us to be governed by the counsel of God, and forsake our own way; and this is the most perfect freedom, for freedom can only be obtained by obedience to the laws of God. Do not vote for him, then, or for any of those men, unless you can sustain him and them, by abiding counsel.

Upon calling the vote, President Brigham Young was unanimously sustained; and Heber C. Kimball as his first Counsellor, and Willard Richards as his second Counsellor, Church Historian, and General Church Recorder.

John Smith was sustained as Presiding Patriarch to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Orson Hyde was sustained as President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles; and Parley P. Pratt, Orson Pratt, Wilford Woodruff, John Taylor, George A. Smith, Amasa Lyman, Ezra T. Benson, Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow, Erastus Snow, and Franklin D. Richards, were severally sustained as members of said Quorum.

David Pettegrew was voted to be the President of the High Priest's Quorum; and Reynolds Cahoon and George B. Wallace were sustained as his Counsellors.

Joseph Young was sustained as President of the Presidency of Seventies, and Levi W. Hancock, Henry Herriman, Zera Pulsipher, Albert P. Rockwood, Jedediah M. Grant, and Benjamin L. Clapp, as his associates.

John Nebeker was sustained as President of the Elders' Quorum; also James H. Smith, and Aaron Sceva, his Counsellors.

Edward Hunter was sustained as the Presiding Bishop of the Church.

Lewis Wight was sustained as President of the Priests' Quorum; also George Dockstader and William Whiting, his Counsellors.

McGee Harris was sustained as President of the Teachers' Quorum; also Reuben Perkins and Adam Speirs, his Counsellors.

Return R. Hill was sustained as President of the Deacons' Quorum; also Os-

wald Barlow and Alexander Hill, his Counsellors.

Brigham Young was sustained as the Trustee in Trust for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; and Edward Hunter, his Assistant Trustee.

Daniel H. Wells was sustained as the Superintendent of Public Works; and Truman O. Angel, as the Architect for the Church.

Brigham Young was sustained as the President of the Perpetual Emigrating Fund, to gather the poor; and H. C. Kimball, W. Richards, W. Woodruff, O. Hyde, G. A. Smith, E. T. Benson, J. M. Grant, D. H. Wells, Willard Snow, Edward Hunter, Daniel Spencer, Thomas Bullock, John Brown, William Crosby, A. Lyman, C. C. Rich, Lorenzo D. Young, P. P. Pratt, O. Pratt, and F. D. Richards, were severally sustained as his Assistants and Agents for said Fund.

David Fullmer was sustained as the President of this Stake of Zion; also Thomas Rhoades and Phineas H. Young, his Counsellors.

Heman Hyde, Eleazer Miller, Phineas Richards, Levi Jackman, Ira Eldredge, John Vance, Edwin D. Woolley, John Parry, Winslow Farr, William Snow, and Nathaniel H. Felt, were severally sustained as members of the High Council; and Seth M. Blair was voted to be a member of said Council, in the room of Wm. W. Major, sent on a mission to England.

John Young, of G. S. L. City, was voted to be a Patriarch; also Enos Curtis, of Hobbie Creek; Samuel Alger, of G. S.

L. City; James Lake, of Ogden; William Casier, of Nephi; Elisha H. Groves, of Cedar; and Emer Harris, of Provo, were severally voted to be Patriarchs in the Church of Jesus Christ.

Elder O. HYDE then read the names of thirty-nine persons selected to accompany him to form a settlement on the banks of Green river, and it was voted they should fulfil that mission.

Elder T. BULLOCK then read over eighty-eight names, who had been selected to go on various missions, under the direction of Elder Parley P. Pratt.

President YOUNG moved that Joseph A. Thompson be cut off from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and be turned over into the hands of his master, the devil; and all persons who want to walk in the same steps as he has done, we will serve in the same manner; and let all Israel say Amen. The congregation responded, Amen.

Elder G. A. SMITH moved that the Twelve Apostles be authorized by this Conference to select such names as they need, and present the same to the Presidency for approval, without presenting them in detail to this Conference, which if this Conference approve of, they will signify it by the uplifted hand. Carried.

President YOUNG then addressed the persons who were appointed to go on missions, which will be published hereafter.

Choir sung a hymn. Benediction by President Young.

(To be concluded in our next.)

CATECHISM FOR CHILDREN.

BY ELDER JOHN JAKES.

(Continued from page 39.)

CHAPTER XII.

THE HOLY SPIRIT.

1. Q. When a person has been baptized, what is it his privilege to receive?

A. The Gift of the Holy Spirit.

2. Q. What is the Holy Spirit commonly called?

A. The Holy Ghost.

3. Q. What did Jesus Christ call it?

A. The Comforter.

4. Q. For what is the Holy Ghost given?

A. To cheer, comfort, and enlighten the mind, strengthen the memory, and lead into all truth, that men may become perfect. John xiv. 26.

Q. Repeat the passage.

A. "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in

my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

5. Q. What are the peculiar manifestations of the Holy Ghost?

A. Amongst others, visions, dreams, prophecies, speaking in divers tongues, interpretation of tongues, discernment of spirits, angels, and Gods; knowledge, wisdom, extraordinary faith, healings, and miraculous powers. 1 Cor. xii. 8—11. Book of Mormon, Moroni x. 1.

Q. Repeat the passages.

A. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will."

"And again I exhort you, my brethren, that ye deny not the gifts of God, for they are many; and they come from the same God. And there are different ways that these gifts are administered; but it is the same God who worketh all in all; and they are given by the manifestations of the Spirit of God unto men, to profit them. For behold, to one is given by the Spirit of God, that he may teach the word of wisdom; and to another, that he may teach the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; and to another, exceeding great faith; and to another, the gifts of healing by the same Spirit. And again, to another, that he may work mighty miracles; and again, to another, that he may prophesy concerning all things; and again, to another, the beholding of angels and ministering spirits; and again, to another, all kinds of tongues; and again, to another, the interpretation of languages, and of divers kinds of tongues."

6. Q. Can these manifestations of the Holy Ghost be obtained by all men in all ages of the world?

A. The manifestations of the Holy Ghost always follow faith in, and obedience to, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Acts ii. 38, 39. Book of Mormon, Moroni vii. 4; x. 1.

Q. Repeat the passages.

A. "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and

to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."

"Has the day of miracles ceased? or have angels ceased to appear unto the children of man? or has He withheld the power of the Holy Ghost from them? or will he so long as time shall last, or the earth shall stand, or there shall be one man upon the face thereof to be saved? Behold I say unto you nay."

"And I would exhort you, my beloved brethren, that ye remember that he is the same yesterday, to day, and for ever, and that all these gifts of which I have spoken, which are spiritual, never will be done away, even as long as the world shall stand, only according to the unbelief of the children of men."

7. Q. Do not many people teach that these gifts are "done away and no longer needed?"

A. Yes, but such persons are false teachers, and the wrath of God is kindled against them, for where these gifts are not enjoyed, unbelief, darkness, confusion, strife, and wickedness are sure to prevail. Prov. xxix. 18. Book of Mormon, Nephi xiii. 6. Moroni x. 2.

Q. Repeat the passages.

A. "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

"Wo unto him that spurneth at the doings of the Lord; yea, wo unto him that shall deny the Christ and his works; yea, wo unto him that shall deny the revelations of the Lord, and that shall say the Lord no longer worketh by revelation, or by prophecy, or by gifts, or by tongues, or by healings, or by the power of the Holy Ghost; yea, and wo unto him that shall say at that day, that there can be no miracle wrought by Jesus Christ, to get gain; for he that doeth this, shall become like unto the son of perdition, for whom there was no mercy, according to the word of Christ."

"And now I speak unto all the ends of the earth, that if the day cometh that the power and gifts of God shall be done away among you, it shall be because of unbelief. And wo be unto the children of men, if this be the case; for there shall be none that doeth good among you, no not one. For if there be one among you that doeth good, he shall work by the power and gifts of God. And wo unto them who shall do these things away and die, for they die in their sins, and they cannot be saved in the kingdom of God; and I speak it according to the words of Christ, and I lie not."

8. Q. Does not St. Paul say that these gifts shall vanish away?

A. Yes, but not until the Saints are made perfect. 1 Cor. xiii. 8, 9, 10.

Q. Repeat the passage.

A. "But whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophecy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away."

9. Q. In what manner is the gift of the Holy Ghost communicated to man?

A. By the laying on of hands of those having authority. Acts viii. 17—19. Book of Mormon, Moroni ii. 1. Doc. and Cov. lix. 6.

Q. Repeat the passages.

A. "Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. And when Simon saw, that through laying on of the Apostles' hands, the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost."

"The words of Christ, which he spake unto his disciples, the Twelve whom he had chosen, as he laid his hands upon them. And he called them by name, saying, ye shall call on the Father in my name, in mighty prayer, and after ye have done this, ye shall have power, that on him whom ye shall lay your hands, ye shall give the Holy Ghost; and in my name shall ye give it, for thus do mine Apostles. . . . And on as many as they laid their hands, fell the Holy Ghost."

(To be continued.)

"And again, it shall come to pass, that on as many as ye shall baptize with water, ye shall lay your hands, and they shall receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost."

10. Q. Have not many persons received the Gift of the Holy Ghost without the laying on of hands?

A. The Lord Jesus Christ did, on his coming up out of the waters of baptism; the Apostles did, on the day of Pentecost; Cornelius the centurion did; so also have many others received the Gift of the Holy Ghost without the laying on of hands. Yet God ordained the laying on of hands to be the ordinance whereby the Gift of the Holy Ghost should be imparted from His authorised servants to baptized persons; and if, to accomplish special designs, He sees wise to impart it direct from Himself, this does not lessen, in the least degree, the responsibility of mankind in general to submit to the ordinance of laying on of hands that they may receive the Gift of the Holy Ghost.

11. Q. How should persons conduct themselves after they have received the Holy Ghost, in order to retain it.

A. They should be very humble and prayerful, and should strive to keep all the commandments of the Lord, observe all His precepts, and live by every word that proceedeth from His mouth.

VARIETIES.

THE silent eye is often a more powerful conqueror than the noisy tongue.

A MELTING sermon being preached in a country church, all the congregation feel a weeping except one man, who begged to be excused, *as he belonged to another church.*

KEEP a low sail at the commencement of life, you may rise with honour, but you cannot recede without shame.

It is useless to look forward to a future state of prosperity, if the present be not occupied towards laying the foundation of it. Many cling to a distant hope, and reject the progressive certainty.

PRAYER OF A SAINT.

God of Creation, thee I own,
And prostrate all before thy throne;
Thine, Father, faithful let me be
In time and through Eternity.
Not only thine when friends shall smile,
Or love's chaste blandishments beguile,
Not only while life's sea is calm,
While every wound can feel a balm;
Or Fortune's choicest flowerets bloom,
Or air is pregnant with perfume,
In Fancy's amaranthine bowers,

Osborn Street, Hull.

With health, youth, peace, and joyous hours.
Not only when the heart can tell,
In ecstasy, that "all is well."
But thine when all of these are fled,
And Hope herself seems with the dead,
When storm on storm shall furious rise,
When lurid lightning rends the skies.
When thunder echoes thunder back,
And desolations mark their track,
In Nature's dark, despairing hour—
Great God, support me by thy power.

C. V. VERNON.